Homelessness Solutions Program: Application Scoring Guidance

Instructions:

For the Continuum of Care Application and Provider Profile, questions are scored on a 5-point scale:

0 – Agency did not answer the question / clearly does not meet the standard

1 – Answer is incomplete and unclear; is mostly not meeting the standard

3 – Answer meets some of the standard, but does not completely meet or is missing components

5 – Answer is complete and fully meets the standard

Some questions are marked either for "program requirements" or "informational purposes only;" these are reviewed, but not considered in the overall score.

The Continuum of Care Application is scored across:

Overall Plan (25 points), Housing Stabilization Services (25 points), Emergency Shelter (20 points), Outreach (5 points), Veterans / Youth (10 possible bonus points)

The CoC Application receives **one score.**

The Provider Profile is scored for **Agency Information** (60 points). HMIS and Past Performance will also include an evaluation of information available to the Department about the agency's participation in the MSHDW, and work on previous grants; those sections are each worth 10 points. Provider scores will be **weighted** by the overall percentage of the CoC funding dedicated to that provider, which will be used to create **one CoC provider score.**

The CoC Application Score and Provider Score will be combined to give a **final total score out of 145 points.**

Final funding decisions, for competitive funding, will be made based on the final Continuum of Care score, based off of the CoC Application and Provider Profile(s); program requirements; the total amount of requests received, including the total amount requested within each program area; and the total funding available.

Continuum of Care Application

Overall Plan:

1. The CoC demonstrates the need for the services that will be provided by the Homelessness Solutions Program, including the use of local data (5 pts):

2 and 3. Provider selection process and geographic coverage: Informational purposes only

4 and 5. CoC has clear, measurable outcomes that show their effect on reducing homelessness, and clear ways that they are evaluating and improving their homeless programs (5 pts):

6. CoC supports a Housing First philosophy, minimizes barriers to entry, and does not deny services on the basis of substance use or prior involvement with the criminal justice system, except in narrowly defined circumstances (5 pts):

7. CoC connects participants to a variety of mainstream benefits and services (5 pts):

8 and 9. CoC has a plan to address returns to homelessness, including connecting them with other programs offered through the CoC such as Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) (5 pts):

Overall Plan Score: **/ 25**

Housing Stabilization Services:

1 and 2. The CoC has a clear plan in place to provide services that help people find and remain in permanent housing, including ways to coordinate efforts across agencies (5 pts):

3. The CoC is using Coordinated Entry to ensure that clients who are the most in need of services are being connected to them (5 pts):

4. The CoC has a plan in place to find permanent housing options for clients, even prior to clients entering the program (5 pts):

5. The CoC is using Housing Stabilization Services to reduce the length of time people spend homeless (5 pts):

6. The CoC is prioritizing Rapid Re-Housing for clients who are homeless, and using Homelessness Prevention in a focused way (5 pts):

Housing Stabilization Services Score: **/ 25**

Emergency Shelter:

1. The CoC has a clear plan in place to make sure that people have access to temporary shelter (5 pts):

2. The CoC is connecting people with shelter beds throughout their providers using Coordinated Entry (5 pts):

3. The CoC is primarily offering immediate access to overnight shelter through HSP, with most of their programs getting people in right away with few to no barriers (5 pts):

4. Equal access: Program requirement, will be flagged if not in compliance

5. The CoC is actively working to reduce the length of stay in shelters (5 pts):

6. *Domestic violence and transitional housing: Informational purposes only*

Emergency Shelter Score: **/ 20**

Outreach

1, 2, and 3. The CoC is actively working to engage unsheltered populations and connect them with shelter and services (5 pts):

4. *Homeless Resource Day and Point-in-Time Count: Informational purposes only*

Outreach Score: **/ 5**

Administration: Not scored

Veterans / Youth

1. 10 bonus points for funding a program *dedicated* to serving homeless veterans:

OR

2. 10 bonus points for funding a program *dedicated* to serving unaccompanied homeless youth:

Bonus: **0** **OR** **10**

CoC Application Score: **/ 85**

Provider Profile

1. Agency has a history of working with the homeless, and a mission focused on providing services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness (5 pts):

2. Agency has ongoing efforts to serve the homeless and people at risk of homelessness, and a clear strategy for connecting clients with housing solutions (5 pts):

3. The program(s) applying for funding have a demonstrated connection to meeting the goals of the HSP, to reduce the number of people who are homeless, reduce their length of time homeless, and ensure that people are able to remain in permanent housing (5 pts):

4. Agency has few to no barriers for participation in their program(s) (5 pts):

5. Agency offers appropriate supportive services, and connects with other providers for other services as necessary (5 pts):

6. Agency provides ongoing evaluation of client's needs and progress, and tailors assistance to the needs of specific clients (5 pts):

7 and 8. Agency is actively participating in the Continuum of Care's processes, including meetings and Coordinated Entry (5 pts):

9. Agency's efforts connect clearly with the CoC's overall plan, described in the CoC application (5 pts):

Provider Application Score: **/ 40**

Data Quality (questions 10 – 13) and Past Performance (questions 14 – 15) will be evaluated by program staff. Each section is worth 10 points.

Total Provider Profile Score: **/ 60**